

Read to Jim for him to tape and give tape to Bud et al 5/3/75

Bud, Cyril, Bob Smith, Joling and McDonnell are holding a Monday a.m. press conference in D.C. I heard this from NYC last night and presume it is true. I'll be learning more. Recently I have written Cyril and others telling how I feel and what I plan to do unless they stop ripping off my work, as Cyril did at NYC with the Memo of Transfer. They may not be willing to believe that the least of my concern is their stealing credit for all the hard work I've done for so long but it is. They all, collectively, know and understand much too little, despite their public reflections of the most exalted self-concepts, most disgusting of which was Cyril's in the Pitts. Press of 2/25, in which he has everyone else jumping on his bandwagon, believes he has the right to collect tickets, and pretends he had done all the work in shaking the NAA loose. He even pretends that he has done all the FOI work when he has not filed a single suit and after agreeing to be my expert witness refused to on the ground that he was making too much money and couldn't afford it. You have this letter-both in the file I took to NYC in the even I needed it.

So, if they have a press conference that is entirely unrelated to any of my work, whatever they do is none of my business unless there is more of the irresponsibility of the past, in which even't I'd make it my business. If they plan no more than something like the forensic experts should be involved I have no interest. If they pursue the brain thing, I'll say nothing until what I believe is probable, it splatters their faces.

What the government has supplied is not complete. It can be used but I've not used it because what remains certain to follow if we are left alone is more important. I simply will not any longer remain silent while others grab headlines and promote themselves on the cheap by ripping off, which is what this really is, work they can easily get. The danger to what can be accomplished is too great.

So, unless I have assurances that they are not going to go into any of my work, regardless of how properly they may have obtained it, I will be at their press conference, in person and otherwise, and they will never, ever forget it.

I would prefer for this not to happen. I have no interest in hurting anyone. As I remained silent for a decade over the abuses my NYC speech merely began to touch on, I'd prefer not to have to mention any of them. But if I have to I'll do it as those who know me ought be able to conceive I can and with what their own self-centered thinking will not remind them of. The miserable things several of these have been doing for years that they think are great and in general an overflow of the relevant in my files is more than enough.

Moreover, what they do not know, is that I have been backgrounding the press on this for a long time. Tell them without identifying him of the meeting I had with a wire-service reporter at your place on the 17th. Among the others are a major paper and a network. Ditto with several Congressional committees, very quietly.

Without specifics except for the AEC correspondence, tell them if you want what happened in court yesterday so those ~~men~~ who may have decent motive can understand what the potential of all this is and how their use of any nature can ruin it. My view is that if left alone I have the government firmly hooked already, as you will see more clearly when I've been able to read and correct what I've written for you and for the second set of interrogatories.

I expect several to be hung up in their egos and self-concepts and ambitions and not to find it easy to detach themselves from the possibilities as they see them if they use this stuff. That, however, is their problem. If I have to take a single step I will make it a major effort. There is not one of them who will not be tainted by the ~~men~~ record I will make, including those who may have innocence in their hearts but also may have no way of knowing what they are into.

If they avoid my work, no problem. If they are asked questions about it, all they need do is say they have no comment on my work or what is in court now. Then it will not be necessary for me to do anything except tape what they say, as I will. And leave without having to open my mouth. Or show a single paper. And what papers I can show!

I do want this assurance. With it I probably won't even go and would be content to do what I think necessary later if they do not keep their word.

Herb might want to remember that in Memphis in October I filled him in on my plans and then asked his help and that quite some time ago, as soon as I got the first batch of stuff, you sent him copies for me.

All professional people ought to bear in mind that what any one does at something like this can very much influence the professional reputations of all. Each is in the position of taking all others on faith and trust. I doubt if any one has enough of the grasp of fact to be aware of what this can mean if they get out of a very narrow press conference or if they get into any of my work, past or current.

Of course I'd like nothing more than an effort to throw me out of this press conference.

Make it as clear as you can that a proper, ethical, professional press conference is something to which I have no objection and that nothing I have said should be misinterpreted to mean that I oppose a press conference. I strongly oppose all the self-promotion in the guise of sincere interest in the subject, but that has no connection with anyone's right to say whatever he may want to say.

If they want to talk to me, I imagine Bud has enough phones for them all to be on one while we talk. I'll not be away all weekend.